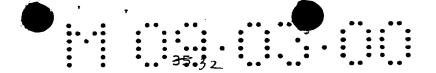
ART 34 AMDT

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CLAIMS:

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A method for providing transaction services wherein the user of the transaction services interacts with a computer-based transaction machine which has transaction devices, said computer-based transaction machine being controlled by one or more software applications, said computer-based transaction machine having an operating system which controls and receives information from said transaction devices: characterized in that the one or more software applications interact with said transaction devices through a programming interface of middleware software, said middleware software interacting with the operating system, wherein the services provided by the middleware software depend on the capabilities of the transaction devices but the programming interface does not depend on the capabilities of the transaction devices.

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21 22 2. A method for providing transaction services according to Claim 1 wherein the transaction machine is selected from a group which comprises automatic teller machines, kiosks and electronic point of sale machines.

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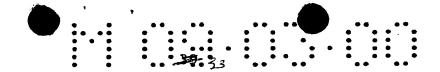
23

25 3. A method for providing transaction services according 26 to any preceding Claim wherein middleware software 27 comprises a series of transaction objects and controls 28 for standard device functions.

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30 4. A method for providing transaction services according 31 to Claim 3 wherein transaction objects are independent 32 of the interface between the user and .../





24. A method for providing transaction services according to any of Claims 19 to 23 wherein use of a web browser allows conventional web sites to be displayed by the computer-based transaction machine.

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25. A method for providing transaction services according to Claim 24 wherein middleware software allows or disallows access to particular web sites according to a rule database.

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12 26. A method for providing transaction services according 12 to Claim 24 or Claim 25 wherein middleware software is 13 adapted to customise time-out of the display of 14 individual internet web sites.

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19 20 27. A method for providing transaction services according to any preceding Claim wherein the computer-based transaction machine is adapted to allow the software applications and middleware to be altered across a network by an authority.

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22 28. A method for providing transaction services according 23 to any preceding Claim wherein the transaction machine 24 can communicate information about their status to a 25 remote monitoring station across a network.

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29. A computer-based transaction machine having transaction
28 devices; said computer-based transaction machine being
29 controlled by one or more software applications, said
30 computer-based transaction machine having an operating
31 system which controls and receives information from
32 said transaction devices; characterized in that the one



or more software applications interact with said transaction devices through a programming interface of middleware software, said middleware software interacting with the operating system, wherein the services provided by the middleware software depend on the capabilities of the transaction devices but the programming interface does not depend on the capabilities of the transaction devices.

10 30. A computer-based transaction machine according to Claim
11 29 wherein the transaction machine is selected from a
12 group which comprises automatic teller machines, kiosks
13 and electronic point of sale machines.

31. A computer-based transaction machine according to Claim 29 or Claim 30 wherein middleware software comprises a series of transaction objects and controls for standard device functions.

32. A computer-based transaction machine according to Claim 31 wherein transaction objects are independent of the interface between the user and the transaction machine; the interface between the user and the transaction machine being customisable.

26 33. A computer-based transaction machine according to Claim
27 31 or Claim 32 wherein controls implement a
28 capabilities interface.

AMENDED SHEET